

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-8 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended herein. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. This Amendment, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 26, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Taillandier (US 6,354,348). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Taillandier (US 6,354,348) discloses a tire having a doubled air chamber structure (a first cavity 27 and a second cavity 15 shown in Fig. 1A) and a valve 3 used in the tire. The valve 3 includes a first passage 31 connected to the second (inner) cavity 15, a second passage 31 connected to the first (outer) cavity 27, a connection passage 35 connecting the first and second passages, a nonreturn valve 36, a fixed plug 39 and a removable plug 37.

However, Applicant further submits that Taillandier fails to disclose either “a nonreturn valve member for an outer gas chamber” or “detachment-restraining means” as recited in claim 1. In the present application, an exemplary embodiment of the “nonreturn valve member for an outer gas chamber” claimed corresponds to the valve core 41 in the hole 35 (as shown in, for example, Fig. 2). Further, an exemplary embodiment of the detachment-restraining means corresponds to the detachment-restraining adapter 105 (also shown in, for example, Fig. 2 of the present application).

Taillandier teaches (with reference to Fig. 3) only a nonreturn valve 36 in the first passage 31, which is connected to the inner cavity 15. Taillandier does not teach a nonreturn valve being provided in the second passage 32 connected to the outer cavity 27.

The Examiner asserts that the membrane 50 corresponds to a nonreturn valve. However, the membrane 50 is designed so that when the tire is inflated and the second passage 32 connected to the outer cavity 27 is pressurized up to a predetermined pressure, the membrane 50 retracts and connects a chamber 46 with the second passage 32. Then, the air pressure in chamber 35 causes a piston 43 to close the connection passage 35 so that air will continue to flow into the first passage 31 to inflate the inner cavity 15 up to a predetermined pressure (see

col. 4, the first full paragraph of Taillandier). Thus, Applicant submits that the membrane 50 merely function as a gate which opens at a predetermined pressure, regardless of the direction of air flow causing the pressure, and does not function as nonreturn valve, which blocks air flow in a given (reverse) direction.

Further, the Examiner asserts that the valve 49 corresponds to the detachment-restraining means of the present invention. However, as discussed above, Taillandier fails to disclose a nonreturn valve member for an outer gas chamber. Therefore, Applicant submits that Taillandier cannot disclose the "detachment-restraining means for restraining detachment of said nonreturn valve member for an outer gas chamber" as Taillander does not teach a nonreturn value member for an outer gas chamber.

For at least the above discussed reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and all claims dependant thereon are patentable over the applied reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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